GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:367
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
AMENDMENTS TO WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that sections 43 and 44 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which provide certain exemptions in respect of peacock tail feathers are proving to be a serious loophole and contributing towards increase in killing of the National Bird in various parts of the Country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the above Sections of the Act in order to remove the loopholes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to impose ban on acquisition and dealing in the tail feathers of the Indian Peafowl immediately?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 367 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16.12
REGARDING AMENDEMENTS TO WILDILFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972.

(a),(b),(c) &(d) Section 43 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972provides exemption to the owner of peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom from selling or transferring the same. Section 44 of the Act provides exemption to the dealer in peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom from obtaining license for dealing in the same.

The available records indicate that most of the deaths of peafowl have occurred due to consumption of pesticide treated seeds sown in agricultural fields. There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that the exemptions provided in the Act have led to increase in poaching of peafowl for collection of tail feathers. The tail feathers are collected after being naturally shed by the birds and are extensively used for social, religious and cultural purposes.

Government has introduced the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002 in the Rajya Sabha and the same has been passed on 9th December, 2002. The Amendment Bill as passed by the Rajya Sabha provides exemption to the holders of peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom from the purview of Section 43. No amendment has been proposed in Section 44 of the Act.